

apparent lightest, has an ulterior motive

"Deliberate and persistent purpose" has, in fact, entered into the blood

It is perhaps because this ulterior motive was too easy to perceive that they were not always as successful in conversion as, with their combined talents, they ought to be But it is also the case that they are never out to "catch" people unawares Of course, they did, again and again, impress their views on their colleagues and associates in common enterprises, for example, in 1894, Sidney wrote out the Minority Report of the Labour

Commission, presented over the names of Tom Mann and his associates, just as he was, in 1909, to write the Minority Report of the Poor Law Commission, to cite only two cases out of a long series They not only talked with friends and allies they talked with any and every possible or actual adversary who could be, at best, converted into an ally, or deflected from opposition, or, at worst, "sized up" Year in year out, they gathered the bright young men, and, to a slightly less degree, the bright young women, just down from the Universities, or doing something interesting in some field or other in the Provinces or in London, or anywhere on the face of the globe They gathered them in, mixed them, and "permeated" them, in so far as they were capable of sustaining that operation But entice them blindly into the Socialist fold they never did On the contrary, at a certain point, they invariably put before the acolyte every difficulty—social,

professional
and personal—that he might be going to
meet What
did his wife think? Had he realised what
such a step
might mean professionally? Was his faith
strong enough
to sustain being laughed at? Through key-
people, they
certainly did, over years, exercise a far-
reaching influence,
impossible to measure or assess, the point
to be made
is that there is nothing Machiavellian about
the process
It is, on the contrary, almost shamelessly
open